

EDITORIALS

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY — "The free world is dependent upon the strength of America, and the strength of America depends upon solvent government and maintaining the value of our dollar."—Senator Byrd of Virginia.

Battling Eyesores

Much has been said during recent years by civic leaders, members of many of the city's fraternal and service clubs, this newspaper, and others interested in Torrance to the effect that Torrance probably has the junkiest, most unkempt, and most uninviting entrances of any community in Southern California.

Probably, with few exceptions, the statements could take in more territory.

For the past eight or ten years, we have been hearing from city officials on the matter, and files of the HERALD indicate the problem is a long-standing one — dating back for a quarter of a century or more.

In the interim, nothing has been done except to add more junk and clutter to the city's entrances.

One of the main thoroughfares into the city, Crenshaw Blvd., moves through a well kept business section from the north, passes the modern campus of El Camino College, and bumps across Redondo Beach Blvd. into chaos.

Torrance Blvd. from the east is a divided, weed grown, railroad right-of-way with inadequate strips of asphalt on each side leading into the jumbled maze we know as Downtown Torrance.

Torrance Blvd. from the west has taken on a different look in recent years with the development of a huge housing development and Bishop Montgomery High School on the south side as you enter from Redondo Beach, and the north side will be developed within the next few years under the weight of economics.

Arlington Ave. from the north and south are hardly a credit to the city with weed grown shoulders and junky areas up and down its expanse. Much has been done by private individuals to clean up this mess, recently, and there is hope that something can be accomplished in the coming years.

Hopes for alleviating some of the eyesores have been raised during recent weeks with the city negotiating with the Pacific Electric for easement on its Torrance Blvd. right of way so that eyesore can be eliminated. The PE wants \$50 annual rental fee, which it claims is the amount of taxes it pays to the city on the property between Western Ave. and Torrance Blvd., and will eliminate its reservation of the right of way to put signboards along the strip of railway track.

An easement to permit the city to clean up and paint the overhead rail crossing along its right of way also is being sought and would go a long way toward enhancing the attractiveness of at least one of the city's entrances.

Let's hope that the city council will pursue this problem with the zest it deserves.

Opinions of Others

The time is coming all too soon, if something is not done to restore law and order, when this country will not be run by the government of the people but by a small coterie of gangsters who have gotten themselves into top labor positions, or in control of those who are puppets in the leadership of labor unions. — Buckeye (Ariz.) Valley News.

Everyone seems to agree that the world can't afford another war and by the looks of the budgets, we can't afford peace either. Maybe all those deadly weapons the budgets provide will frighten the daylight out of everyone and that may lead to peace.—Waseca (Minn.) Herald.

"We don't want to pilfer the U.S. Treasury!" said the mayor of Independence, Mo., "But..."

This classic comment fairly well sums up the feeling of the city officials meeting at the convention of the American Municipal Assn. The mayors want more, not less, federal help for... airports, housing, sewage plant construction, and countless other projects.—Newton Falls (Ohio) Herald.

STAR GAZER... Your Daily Activity Guide... According to the Stars... To develop message for Sunday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

'Twas The Month After Christmas



In Years Gone By Mailbox

Twenty-five years ago today, Jan. 11, 1934, residents of Torrance were given their first glimmer of a promise to be included in highway plans which would result in a more direct route to Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, and the San Fernando Valley.

While city officials pondered the problem of highway arteries, bank officials were still tangling with the financial stresses of a depression year. In a plan to reorganize the First National Bank of Torrance, it was decided to waive 45 per cent of deposits rather than 50 per cent of deposits as had been originally anticipated.

Engineers who had been coping with the problem of repairing Torrance High School decided in favor of continuing with a two-story structure as opposed to reducing it to one story. Engineer R. McC. Beanfield, in a non-orthodox departure from

building methods employed at the time, announced his decision to reinforce the structure by the "pipe strut system" which involved spraying the walls with cement under pressure to cause them to pack solidly.

Flood damage from week end storms and automobile accidents also made headlines on Jan. 11, 1934. Car registrants were slow in applying for license 25 years ago, which officials attributed to apathy on the part of auto drivers.

Plans for President Roosevelt's 52nd birthday ball to be held locally at the Hollywood Riviera Clubhouse, which was burned to the ground by flames last summer, were snowballing as patrons and patronesses jumped aboard the bandwagon to support the charity known as the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, which was to mushroom in later years into the March of Dimes.

Supermarket special of the week was beef, which sold for 14 cents per pound for round bone roast and 12 cents per pound for chuck roast.

Float Crew Happy

Editor, Torrance Herald: On behalf of myself and my co-chairman, Jeannie Gerald, I wish to thank you for the splendid coverage that you gave the Torrance entry in the Rose Parade. The pictures and articles were superb and as you well know the local newspapers are still the best medium for "getting across" to the residents.

I was extremely proud of the float when it was pulled into formation and I confess that I had "goose bumps." My only regret is that more residents could not take a part in its making. Only a certain amount could work on the float on any one shift and I regret to say that I had to turn some workers down.

LAW IN ACTION

Buying a New Car

Bear these things in mind when buying a car: Make sure that the seller owns the car. A pink slip plus a registration certificate is evidence but not proof of car ownership.

Unlike an adult, a minor—a single person under 21 or a married one under 18, no matter how old he or she "looks" can "disaffirm" or deny the agreement to sell. If over 18, he may have to pay back the money, but generally not if he is under 18.

To get you to buy, a seller may state "facts" (not just opinions) about the car. For example, "We have just overhauled this car." Suppose he made them knowing them to be false. Then if you acted promptly you can call off the sale and get your money back, even though the warranty says that any oral claims not also in writing do not count.

THE SQUIREL CAGE by Reid Bundy

A Visitor From the North

less familiar, and includes special plates for the state's Western Canada is a vast, resources rich frontier which should be developed as a matter of economics and national defense.

That's the story told to us this week by a visitor from the north, George M. Murray, of Fort St. John, British Columbia.

"Now that Alaska is the 49th state of the union, the Americans should tie up their new state with a rail line to assure the industrial development of the ore and oil rich lands of western Canada and Alaska," Murray said.

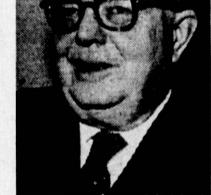
Mr. and Mrs. Murray spent the holidays in Torrance, visiting with Mrs. William Crossmeyer, 1538 Marcelina, a sister to Mrs. Murray.

"Sure we took in the parade, and I think Torrance's float was very beautiful," Murray told us. He was especially impressed with the attention given to the new U. S. Senator from Alaska.

"I think the people of western Canada should come down here in greater numbers in the midwinter, especially now that transportation is so well developed," he said. "Few people realize how many at-

tractions you have in a place like Torrance."

He listed the ocean, libraries, public buildings, and



GEORGE M. MURRAY Plugs New Frontier

weather, saying it was an ideal place for people of his country to seek retirement.

But Murray, who with Mrs. Murray publishes the Alaska Highway News in Fort St. John, B.C., is still not thinking of retirement. He's still busy trying to urge development of his part of Canada.

A native of Ontario, Murray went to British Columbia as a youth. He has served in the legislature of that province, and served as a member of the Canadian House of Commons.

He says he was fighting for extension of a railroad through western Canada to Alaska in those days, too. The rail line has recently been pushed north from Vancouver to Fort St. John, a distance of about 750 miles.

Opening of the Alcan Highway through the area has triggered the development of huge mines, oil exploration, and some industries, Murray reports. Oil and gas are now being found in recoverable quantities in the area.

The climate is no handicap, he emphasizes. The weather is probably about the same as that in Minneapolis.

It's the new frontier for the young men and women of America and Canada, according to Murray, and holds promises of a big future.

Murray is just trying to speed up the process a little.

Did you know we had 34 different kinds of license plates for autos registered in California?

The plates may identify the vehicle, the owner or driver, or the type of business or service in which the vehicle is used, according to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The most common, of course, is the three-letter, three-number plate that identifies private passenger cars.

Next are the truck and commercial plates, followed by trailers and motorcycles.

After this comes some of the plates with which the average Californian might be to U. S. Senators. Senator

Thomas Kuchel will now get plate US S 1 as the senior senator and newly elected Clair Engle will get US S 2, the junior senator's plate.

There also are special plates for Congressmen, and show the district from which the Congressman was elected. Cecil King who represents the 17th Congressional District, for example, will get license plate C 17.

Assemblyman and state senators also have special plates. Assemblyman Vincent Thomas will have plate A 68 because he represents the 68th Assembly District and Senator Richard Richards will have S 38 because he represents the 38th Senatorial District of California.

The plates are not free, either, the DMV points out. They cost the same as plates for your private auto.

There are a number of free plates issued in the state, however, including those for vehicles operated by the Consular Corps, public service institutions (PS 116, with the P over the S), state cars, city, county, and federal government vehicles, disabled vets, and quasi-political subdivisions such as a bridge and irrigation districts.

Beyond all of these are special plates for horseless carriages, "ham" radio operators, press photographer, and others. The horseless carriage plates cost an extra \$2 over normal registration fees, and the vehicle must be of the 1922 vintage or earlier.

The "ham" plates cost an extra \$3 and bears the owner's call letters, such as W6 KDT.

The press photographer plates were first issued about two years ago and are identified by the letters PP enclosed in a triangle, and are numbered numerically. Mine is PP 1467. These also cost \$3 extra.

Regardless of the type of plate you put on the family auto, you had better get with it, because the penalties get plenty stiff after Feb. 4. And toward the deadline, the lines get awfully long around local DMV offices.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE with ACROSS and DOWN clues and a grid.

PRANK RANCE GAITHER... ASP WAITS STA... IT ITALIAN... TERN LIVE ONCE... GILLES CALIFORNIA... PIN VIM... TREADS SENECA... EARL ACT ANEW... AS SUTURAL... WIS SWAP... SNIPER TESTS... GROSS SENSE

ARTHRTIS RHEUMATISM... 11,000,000... ALL AGES STRICKEN BY THE GREAT CRIPPLER... CAUSE: UNKNOWN... CURE: UNKNOWN... MARCH OF DIMES TO START PATIENT AID PROGRAM FOR ARTHRITIS PATIENTS THROUGH 1959... Doctors estimate 70% of a serious crippling can be prevented with EARLY TREATMENT... RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS... NOW, MARCH OF DIMES FUNDS BATTLE ARTHRITIS PLUS POLIO... BIRTH DEFECTS... VIRUS DISEASES... JOIN THE MARCH OF DIMES... TOWARD GREATER VICTORIES...